

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A gelled and/or film-forming topical hormonal composition ~~with systemic effect~~ for quickly penetrating the patient's skin for treating progesterone deficiency in pre-menopausal women and for hormone replacement in menopausal women comprising a) 0.05 to 1% by weight of the composition of at least one active principle selected from the group consisting of nomegestrol, and ethers and esters thereof; ~~b)~~ and at least one vehicle permitting systemic passage of a member selected from the group consisting of a solubilizing agent, an absorption promoter, a film-forming agent and a gelling agent and film-forming agents and e) optionally a diluent.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 wherein nomegestrol acetate is used.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 wherein the quantity of nomegestrol or of one of its esters or ethers is about 0.4% by weight of the total composition.

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Claim 6 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with system effect of claim 1 containing at least one solubilizing agent selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, propyleneglycol and C₈/C₁₀ of polyoxyethylene glycosyl glyceride.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 wherein the solubilizing agent is a ternary mixture of 95% ethanol/water/propyleneglycol, in which the percentage of 95% ethanol is 30 to 50%, that of water is 30 to 60% and that of propyleneglycol is 2 to 20%.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 containing a solubilizing agent of quaternary mixture of 95% ethanol/water/C₈/C₁₀ of polyoxyethylene glycosyl glyceride, propyleneglycol, in which the percentage of 95% ethanol is 30 to 50%, that of water is 30 to 60%, that of the glyceride is 3 to 7% and that of propyleneglycol is 2 to 20%.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with system effect of claim 1 containing an absorption promoter selected from the group consisting of isopropylideneglycerol, α -tocopheryl polyethyleneglycol 1000 succinate and monoethyl ether of diethylene glycerol.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 9 wherein the absorption promoter is isopropylideneglycerol.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A topical composition with systemic effect of claim 1 containing a gelling agent selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives selected from the group consisting of methylcelluloses, ethylcelluloses (Ethocel), hydroxypropylmethylcelluloses, hydroxyethylcelluloses, hydroxypropylcelluloses and carboxymethylcelluloses in the sodium or calcium form and acrylic carbomer.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with system effect of claim 11 containing hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 11 containing a carbomer.

Claim 14 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 containing a film-forming agent selected from the group consisting of cellulose, acrylic, methacrylic acid copolymers and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 14 containing hydroxypropylmetnylcellulose acetate succinate.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 14 containing an aqueous dispersion of an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and ethyl acrylate as the film-forming agent.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A topical hormonal composition with systemic effect of claim 1 in the form of a gel or a film-forming gel containing an aqueous-alcoholic mixture with 8% of propyleneglycol and 3% of isopropylidene glycerol.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A method of systemically effecting correction of progesterone deficiency in premenopausal women comprising administering to premenopausal women in need thereof a systemically correcting amount of a composition of claim 1 to treat progesterone deficiency.